

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-21 (cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) A planar direct drive, comprising:

a passive unit, which includes a planar running surface with magnetic flux regions;

an active unit with coil systems for generating a variable magnetic flux

a bearing unit, which allows near-frictionless two-dimensional relative motion of the active and passive units by maintaining a bearing gap;

a position measuring system that includes a measurement standard and a measuring sensor that scans the measurement standard and supplies a position signal, the positioning system including a moving component and a quasi-stationary component, one of which is formed by the measurement standard, while the other is formed by the measuring sensor, such that both components are arranged outside the bearing gap and a distance from the running surface, the quasi-stationary component being arranged at a predetermined fixed point and substantially parallel to but separated from the running surface, the moving component being mounted on the active unit so that when the moving component reaches the quasi-stationary component the moving component comes into measuring contact with the quasi-stationary component, and the

position control of the active unit being controlled or regulated by evaluation of the position signal supplied by the measuring sensor as long as the two components of the position measuring system are in a state of measuring contact.

23. (Previously presented) The planar direct drive in accordance with claim 22, wherein the quasi-stationary component is arranged outside of a range of travel required by the coil systems of the active unit and is vertically displaced from the running surface.

24. (Previously presented) The planar direct drive in accordance with claim 22 wherein the quasi-stationary component is mounted on frame members and has a permanently fixed position relative to the passive unit.

25. (Previously presented) The planar direct drive in accordance with claim 22, wherein the quasi-stationary component is mounted on a second active unit, which can move relative to the passive unit and relative to the first active unit and can be moved to the predetermined fixed points.

26. (Previously presented) The planar direct drive in accordance with claim 22, wherein the quasi-stationary component is integrated in a fixed module, whose position in the plane of the passive unit is fixed by at least one mechanical securing device

mounted on the passive unit, and at least one holding magnet is integrated in the fixed module so as to hold the fixed module on the running surface of the passive unit.

27. (Previously presented) The planar direct drive in accordance with claim 26, wherein the mechanical securing device comprises a stop bar, which is located at an edge of the passive unit and is rigidly mounted on the frame, and several mounting pins that engage the stop bar and the fixed module, the holding magnet comprising at least one electromagnet.

28. (Previously presented) The planar direct drive in accordance with any of claim 22, wherein several quasi-stationary components are arranged at several fixed points that are separated from one another.

29. (Previously presented) The planar direct drive in accordance with claim 28, wherein the fixed points are formed by several work modules that are mounted on the passive unit.

30. (Previously presented) The planar direct drive in accordance with claim 22, comprising several active units that can move on the common passive unit, each of the active units has a moving component and/or a quasi-stationary component.